

# Felix Gröner

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## Education

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*Arizona State University, USA*

*Expected Fall 2026*

### **Ph.D. Human Systems Engineering**

*Status: Ph.D. candidate, GPA 4.0*

*Committee: Erin K. Chiou (Advisor), D. Vaughn Becker, Nancy J. Cooke*

*Dissertation topic: Engineering AI agents for and evaluating the validity of LLM-driven simulations of synthetic participants for Human Factors research*

*Ulm University, Germany*

*June 2024*

### **M.Sc. Cognitive Systems**

*Thesis: The role of explainable artificial intelligence in trust and adherence to AI recommendations*

*Kiel University, Germany*

*December 2022*

### **M.A. International Politics and International Law**

*Thesis: Necessity of adapting International Humanitarian Law to cyber warfare*

*Kiel University, Germany*

*December 2020*

### **B.A. Computer Science and Political Science**

*Thesis: NATO's strategy to deter cyber attacks*

*Kiel University, Germany*

*December 2019*

### **B.Sc. Business Informatics**

*Thesis: Client's influence on the choice of project management technique in software development*

## Publications

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**Gröner, F., Mancenido, M. V., Kim, N., Summers, E., & Chiou, E. K. (in preparation).**

*Increasing transparency of LLM systems does not always improve people's verification behavior and performance: Results from an empirical study of AI-assisted intelligence analysis reporting.*

**Gröner, F., & Chiou, E.K. (under review).** *Engineering approaches to improve human-LLM interaction: A scoping literature review.*

**Gröner, F., & Chiou, E.K.** (under review). *Caveats of replacing human participants with LLM-powered simulated users: The case of a writing style preference inference simulation.*

**Gröner, F., & Becker, D.V.** (in preparation). *Subjective and objective metrics to explain perceptions of original and AI-generated abstract artworks.*

**Gröner, F., Mancenido, M. V., & Chiou, E. K.** (in preparation). Considering expertise as a factor in the design of synthetic test environments for human-AI research. In E. K. Chiou, D. S. Lange, J. H. Wong, & J. Marble (Eds.), *Advancements in Human-Agent Teaming Research Infrastructure: Testbeds, metrics, and concepts*. CRC Press.

**Gröner, F., & Chiou, E. K.** (2024). Investigating the impact of user interface designs on expectations about large language models' capabilities. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10711813241260399>

Kraus, J. M., Merger, J., **Gröner, F.**, & Pätz, J. (2023). 'Sorry' says the robot: The tendency to anthropomorphize and technology affinity affect trust in repair strategies after error. *Companion of the 2023 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 436-441). <https://doi.org/10.1145/3568294.3580122>

## Presentations

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Chiou, E. K., **Gröner, F.**, & Mancenido, M. V. (2025). Increasing transparency of LLM systems does not always improve people's verification behavior and performance: Results from an empirical study of an AI-assisted intelligence reporting task. Abstract submitted to the 69th HFES International Annual Meeting: ASPIRE, 13-17 October, Chicago, IL.

**Gröner, F., Mancenido, M. V., & Chiou, E. K.** (2024). Multi-source AI Scorecard Table (MAST) for evaluating generative AI in worker-automation team tasks. Project update presented at *Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency (CAOE) Annual Meeting*, 8-9 April, Washington, DC.

## Unpublished Projects

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*Personal project*

2025

**Semantic leakage is an issue when experimenting with synthetic datasets**

When generating synthetic datasets, prompting context can have undesired side-effects which threaten the validity of findings. Mechanistic interpretability methods are used to identify the relevant attention heads. Ablating them did not reduce the issue.

*Class project*

2025

**People and LLMs learning each other's competencies**

How well can people and LLMs assess their own and each other's likelihood of knowing the answer to the next question, given their performance history? Sensitivity to prompt design heavily influenced the initial findings.

Master's thesis

2023

**The role of explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) in trust and adherence to AI recommendations**

Showing people either a global (linear surrogate) or local (LIME) explanation for an AI system's recommendation did not have as large of an effect as the participants' prior self-perceived expertise.

## Professional Experience

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*Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency*

2023-2025

**Graduate Research Assistant**

*Responsibilities:* writing grant application and research proposals, authoring papers

*Projects:*

***Graphical user interfaces for directing expectations or LLMs (GUIDE-LLM)***

- Development of a custom experimentation platform for human-LLM interaction research. This online platform allows researchers to control the UI/UX of and record behavioral metrics in experiments of human-LLM interaction.
- Composed a set of tasks following the MAST framework to catalog misconception about LLM capabilities.

***Multisource AI scorecard table (MAST) for evaluating generative AI in worker-automation team tasks***

- Development of a custom experimentation platform for human-LLM interaction research. This online platform allows researchers to control the UI/UX of and record behavioral metrics in experiments of human-LLM interaction.
- Composed a set of tasks following the MAST framework to catalog misconception about LLM capabilities.

*The Polytechnic School, Arizona State University*

2023

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

*Responsibilities:* Teaching classes and recording videos for IFT101, Raspberry Pi

*Human Factors research group, Ulm University*

2022-2023

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

*Responsibilities:* Designing and conducting research studies, project management